

Robert

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Hon. R. A. Pyne,  
Minister of Education,  
Toronto.

My dear Dr. Pyne:

A small committee representing the Universities of the Province met in my office on Saturday morning to consider the relation between the Matriculation examination, which is now held under the auspices of the Universities, and the Normal Entrance examinations, which are conducted by the Department of Education.

As you are aware the standards of these two examinations have in the last few years approximated to each other so closely that a larger proportion of students each year take subjects in the Normal Entrance examinations. This is probably due to the fact that by passing that examination they have the privilege both of entering the Normal Schools or of having it count towards their matriculation at the Universities. There has been on the part of the Universities a growing feeling that in this way a large part of the matriculation examinations is slipping beyond their control, and as you may realise the Universities always will desire to have a voice in determining the quality of the examinations which are set for the entrance to their classes.

From information that we have received from various parts of the Province one realises also that there is a certain amount of irritation arising out of the two examinations being held. In a certain

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sense it requires double work from the teachers, and occasionally owing to the uncertainty of examinations there are disappointments, because of the results of pupils who get different awards in the two examinations.

In my own judgment it would be unwise for the Universities to refuse to recognise the Normal Entrance papers. This would only add confusion to the schools. The committee therefore in order to meet these conditions suggest that perhaps a solution of the difficulties might be found if the Universities were to drop their examination in the four subjects of the Normal Entrance, - English, History, Mathematics and Science, but that the Matriculation Board should continue to appoint examiners in these subjects, who might be shown the examination questions when they are drawn up, and act in an advisory capacity. In the same way the Universities through the Matriculation Board retaining its examination in Latin and the other languages might submit its questions to an advisory committee appointed for this purpose by the Department of Education. The Department would then be entirely responsible for half of the examination as at present, and the Universities as at present would retain control over the other half. Each would have the advantage of further criticism and advice from an advisory committee. It should not be difficult to work this out in practice, and it would result I should hope in the long run in a more careful consideration of the papers even than is given at present.

I should like to have your opinion on this matter, because if you are favourable towards it, it will be necessary for me to have it

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brought before our Senate, and the fact that you are favourable towards it will undoubtedly be a strong factor in enabling me to persuade the Senate to adopt such a position.

With kind regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.